

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after line 1 (the Title), insert the following paragraph:

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a national stage filing of International Patent App. No. PCT/GB2005/001184, filed on March 24, 2005, which claims priority from EP Patent App. No. 04251833.2, filed on March 29, 2004 and GB Patent App. No. 0411434.4, filed on May 21, 2004, herein incorporated by reference in their entireties.

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Page 1, after the above addition, Page 1, after line 1 (the Title), insert the following one-line paragraph centered on the page:

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Page 1, after the above addition, insert the following one-line paragraph:

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Field of the Invention

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Page 1, insert the following one-line paragraph before line 5:

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State of the Art

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Page 3, before line 9, insert the following one-line paragraph centered on the page:

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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Page 3, amend the paragraph of lines 9-11 as follows:

-- It is an object of the invention to provide ~~We have now devised~~ a vacuum cleaner which can be used for both floor cleaning and above-floor cleaning and which alleviates the above-mentioned problems.--.

Page 5, amend the paragraph of lines 25-32 as follows:

-- Preferably a catch is provided to retain the handle in the socket of the upright portion of the cleaner, against a resilient bias. When the catch is released, the handle is biased ~~biased~~ out of the socket to a position where it is conveniently offered to the user for above-floor cleaning. Preferably at the same time the valve is actuated to divert the suction from the first air inlet on the underside of the floor-engaging portion to the second air inlet on the handle.--.

Page 5, amend the paragraph of lines 33-35 as follows:

-- The ~~An embodiment of this~~ invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings, ~~in which:~~ --.

Page 6, before line 1, insert the following one-line paragraph centered on the page:

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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Page 6, before line 14, insert the following one-line paragraph centered on the page:

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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Pages 6 and 7, amend the paragraph running from line 30 of page 6 to line 2 of page 7 as follows:

-- Referring to Figure 6 of the drawings, when the cleaner is being used for conventional floor cleaning and the handle 12 is fitted in the socket 15, as shown in Figure 1, the lower end of the handle 12 abuts a member 30, which is disposed at the bottom of the socket 15 and which is biased ~~biased~~ upwardly by springs e.g. 31 mounted on respective lateral sides of the socket 15. The underside of the member 30 is connected to a valve 32 by a linkage 33.--.

Page 7, amend the paragraph of lines 3-13 as follows:

-- The valve 32 comprises a hollow body 34 having a first inlet port 35 connected to the first suction inlet 13 on the floor-engaging portion 11 of the cleaner and a second inlet port 36 connected to the proximal end of the elongate flexible hose 26. An outlet duct 37 is rotatably mounted within the body 34 and comprises one end provided with a seal 29 for selective alignment with one or other of said inlet ports 35,36. The opposite end of the ~~of the~~ outlet duct 37 of the valve 32 is connected via a flexible hose (not shown) to the motor/fan unit via the separation unit 14, which separates dirt and dust from the airflow.

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